

ASPSF 12171

NOV 28 1983

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Honorable John McCain
Member, United States
House of Representatives
411 South Mill Avenue, Suite 201
Tempe, Arizona 85281

Dear Mr. McCain:

This is in response to your letter of November 3, 1983, to Mr. Leland E. Hodesitt of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in which you forwarded a letter (b) (6) concerning arsenic emission standards proposed by the EPA.

(b) (6) is referring to the national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAP) proposed by EPA under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act on July 20, 1983, for arsenic emissions from three categories of industrial sources. Under the proposed standards, the application of best available technology (BAT) would be required to reduce arsenic emissions at copper smelters processing high- and low-arsenic feed ore and glass manufacturing plants.

The decision on the appropriate control levels for the standards is a very difficult one involving consideration of uncertain health impact projections on the one hand, and possible plant closures with attendant unemployment and other negative community impacts on the other. The enclosed "Executive Summary" of the proposed standards provides a more detailed overview of the issues being considered in this rulemaking.

Public hearings on the proposed NESHAP were held in Tacoma, Washington, on November 2, 3, and 4, and in Washington, D.C., on November 8 to give interested persons the opportunity to comment in person. Due to time and Agency resource limitations, it is not feasible for the EPA to hold a special public hearing in Tucson, as requested by (b) (6). However, the EPA welcomes written comments on the proposed standards; and the public comment period will remain open until December 10, 1983.

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We appreciate receiving (b) (6) views and will place her letter in the docket to be considered in the development of the final standards. If I can be of further service to you in corresponding with Ms. Davidson, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ JOC/w

John R. O'Connor
Acting Director
Office of Air Quality Planning
and Standards

Enclosure

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